

More parking coming soon near new dorms

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi

437th Civil Engineer Squadron

For those who dread searching for a parking space by the new dormitory area or the 437th Transportation Squadron, there's good news. Base civil engineers have found a temporary solution while construction on the dining facility in the dormitory areas continues.

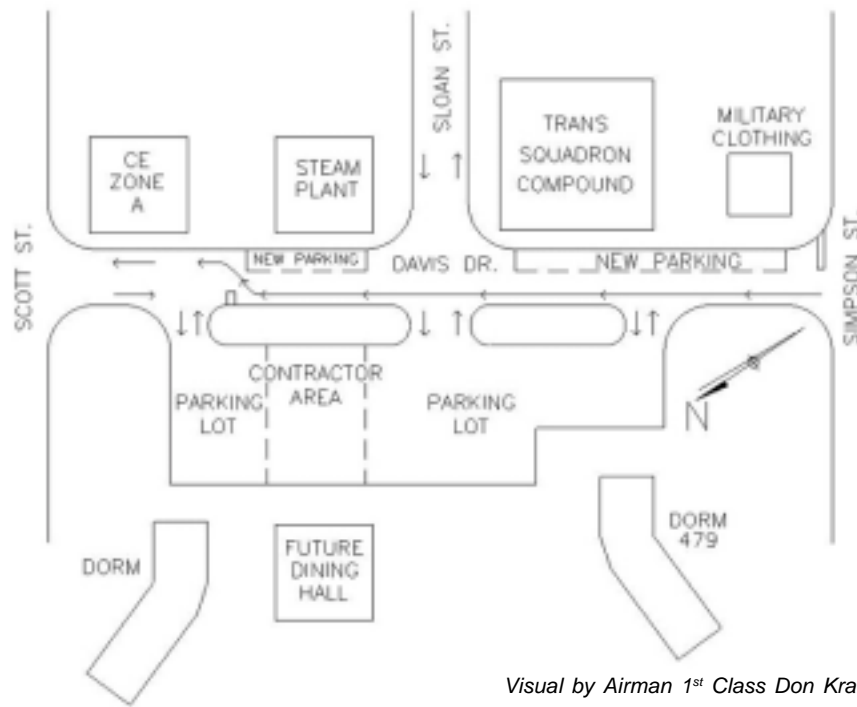
Beginning in September, workers in the transportation squadron and dormitory residents will have 53 parking spaces fashioned out of only one lane of Davis Drive between Simpson and Scott Streets.

Each of the parallel parking spaces will be 10 feet wide and 22 feet long, a little larger than a regular size parallel parking space.

Concrete barriers will be placed at each end of the parking area. Pedestrians wishing to cross Davis Drive may safely use the two existing crosswalks.

The dormitory/dining hall side of Davis Drive will be converted to one-way traffic flow (in the direction of Simpson Street toward Scott Street), and the remaining traffic lane next to the transportation squadron buildings will be used for parking spaces. The speed limit on Davis Drive will go from 25 to 10 mph because one lane will serve as a parking lot.

In addition to the transportation buildings along Davis Drive, other buildings in



Visual by Airman 1st Class Don Krahn Jr.

Davis Drive will be used for one-way traffic only near the transportation squadron.

the area include the steam plant and the military clothing store.

"We've started to experience a real crunch on parking spaces within this area as a result of the construction of the new dining hall and dormitories," said Tom Smith, deputy commander of the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron. "We lost part of one of the larger parking lots for use by the dining hall

contractor for storage of their construction equipment and materials."

He added that because the area along Davis Drive is located close to the dorms and transportation area, using Davis Drive as a parking lot is a convenient solution to the problem.

"The transportation folks asked for 40 parking spaces nearby and we were able to

exceed that requirement," said Lyle Johnston, a maintenance engineer in the 437th CES who designed the parking area. "I'm not saying the additional 53 parking spaces will completely solve the problem, but at least it will help."

"We'll have white parking stripes outlining each of the 53 parking spaces, arrows on the street indicating direction of traffic and 10 mph markings on the street," Johnston said. "The parking spaces are sized to accommodate even larger pickup trucks, and for pedestrian safety, we allowed plenty of space between the parking spaces and the existing crosswalks."

Smith added, "The crucial issue with this project is that everyone gets the message that one lane of Davis Drive has become a parking lot, and the other lane has traffic flowing in only one direction. Our most important emphasis is safety, safety, safety."

The direction of traffic flow (from Simpson Street toward Scott Street) was chosen to most easily accommodate fire trucks which may have to respond to fires in the area, according to Johnston.

The original idea for converting one lane of Davis Drive to a one-way street with the remaining lane used as a parking lot came from Master Sgt. Kevin Tomes of the 437th Component Repair Squadron.

Tomes' idea was brought to the Base Traffic Engineering Working Group where it was later approved.

Safeguard valuables; unsecured property can, will disappear

As residents of Team Charleston we enjoy the convenience and security of living in base housing.

Our neighborhoods are quiet and safe for our families, and our workplaces are usually comfortable and conducive to mission accomplishment and productivity.

However, reality is that theft of personal and government property is ever present, both on the job and in our family housing areas.

Already this year, there have been 51 reported cases of stolen property. Of those cases, 47 involved unsecured property.

Upon analysis of crime trend statistics, a large percentage of cases

occurred in work areas and parking lots, usually resulting from unsecure vehicles, offices, or simply not accounting for property.

The majority of cases reported by family housing residents involved property stolen from yards, such as bicycles and lawn equipment.

Unfortunately, even on base, we must safeguard our valuables as we would if we lived off base. Often base housing residents have the false sense of security that their property is secure in the front or back yard.

The fact is, whether you are on or off the installation, unsecured property is easier to steal.

Here are a few tips to help reduce the risk of theft:

- Account for your property and keep records of serial numbers and descriptions.

- Lock your office when you leave for an extended period of time.

- Always lock your vehicle and put pack-

ages out of sight.

- Store personal property, such as bicycles and lawn equipment, in the garage or storage room.

- Participate in Operation ID. Engravers are available for check out from the Base Crime Prevention Monitor.

- Don't publicize leave and TDY plans. Ask someone you trust to cut your lawn and collect your mail and newspaper.

- Set a timer to turn lights on at night and off during the day. Ask a friend to rearrange curtains or blinds and water plants.

- Organize a Neighborhood Crime Watch within your area. Get involved and look out for one another. The Base Crime Prevention Monitor can help you get started.

Together we can reduce theft. By following the guidelines above, you can make a positive impact in the security of Charleston AFB.

The 437th Security Forces Squadron always stands ready to assist. For more information about Operation ID and Neighborhood Crime Watch, call 963-3620. (submitted by 437 SFS)

Air Expo '99

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since their first demonstration on June 8, 1953.

The team is composed of eight pilots, six of whom are demonstration pilots, three support officers, four civilians, and more than 130 enlisted personnel. The Thunderbirds average 70 demonstrations a year between March and November.

This year's show will also feature the "Wings Of Blue," the U.S. Air Force Academy's parachute team. The show will also display some of the Air Force's most popular jets, to include the highly-advanced F-117 Stealth Fighter. An integrated airdrop will feature the C-141 and a special operations demonstration will feature the MC-130 aircraft and a MH-53 Helicopter.

Other attractions include aerial demonstrations by a Marine Corps F/A-18 and the Tora,Tora, Tora! flight demonstration team, which will recreate the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Base gates open at 9 a.m., and the show will start at 10 a.m. As always, admission and parking are free.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase. No bicycles, pets, smoking, or roller-blading will be allowed on the flightline. For the latest information on Air Expo '99, the public may call 963-EXPO, or check out Charleston AFB's web site at <http://www.charleston.af.mil>.



courtesy photo

The F-117 Stealth Fighter will be on display during Air Expo '99.

